

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LOUREN 00133 282130Z

72

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /123 W

----- 072184

R 281410Z FEB 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2374

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

CONFIDENTIAL LOURENCO MARQUES 0133

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MZ

SUBJECT: NEW COMMANDER IN CHIEF BASTO MACHADO

REF: (A) LOURENCO MARQUES 902 OF DECEMBER 28, 1973;

(B) LOURENCO MARQUES 62 OF JANUARY 25, 1574

1. DURING MY RECENT VISIT IN BEIRA, AGENCE FRANCE PRESS
CORRESPONDENT TOLD ME HE HAD HEARD RUMOR COMMANDER IN CHIEF
GENERAL BASTO MACHADO WILL SOON BE REPLACED, POSSIBLY BY AIR
FORCE GENERAL MANUEL DIOGO NETO,
PRESENTLY COMMANDER OF MOZAMBIQUE AIR FORCE WHO WAS CALLED
TO LISBON LAST WEEK. SOURCE SAID NETO HAD BEEN OFFERED
THIS JOB WHEN KAULZA DE ARRIAGO LEFT, BUT HAD TURNED IT DOWN
ON GROUNDS THAT, AS MOST JUNIOR FULL GENERAL (JUST PROMOTED)
HE WOULD PREFER NOT BEING JUMPED OVER OTHER ELIGIBLE SENIORS.
(COMMENT: SOUNDS TOO NOBLE TO BE TRUE.) SOURCE CLAIMS MACHADO
WAS THE ONLY GENERAL WHO WOULD ACCEPT THE JOB, AND DID SO
ONLY BECAUSE HE IS DUE TO RETIRE SOON.

2. SOURCE DESCRIBED MACHADO AS "NONENTITY", GOOD OFFICE
WORKER, SKILLED IN ORGANIZING FILES BUT UNTRAINED IN ACTUAL
COMBAT. SOURCE SAID HE HAD FIRST CONSIDERED MACHADO ONLY
COLORLESS, QUIET AND MODEST BUT PROBABLY A GOOD SOLDIER FOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LOUREN 00133 282130Z

ALL THAT. AFTER TRAVELLING WITH HIM AND OBSERVING HIM IN

ACTION, HOWEVER, HE FEELS MACHADO HAS MUCH TO BE MODEST
ABOUT, DOES NOT HAVE THE VIGOR, LEADERSHIP QUALITIES, OR
PERSONALITY FOR THE JOB.

3. COMMENT: I CANNOT CONFIRM ABOVE REPORT RE MACHADO'S
REMOVAL. I HAVE SPOKEN WITH MACHADO ONLY FOUR TIMES, ALL
IN LOURENCO MARQUES AND HAVE NOT HAD OPPORTUNITY TO SEE
HIM IN OPERATIONS WITH HIS TROOPS' I FIND HIM PLEASANT
STRAIGHTFORWARD, UNASSUMING, BUT CAUTIOUS AND CERTAINLY
LACKING THE FLARE OF HIS PREDECESSOR. HE HAS GIVEN ONLY HOME
PRESS NFDRENCE SINCE ASSUMING COMMAND AND THAT WAS ROUTINE
AND UNINSPIRING (REF B). ONE CAN DISCOUNT WHAT AFP CORRES-
PONDENT SAYS BY VIRTUE OF LATTER'S STRONG ADMIRATION FOR
KAULZA DE ARRIAGA. HOWEVER, JUDGING FROM WHAT OTHERS SAY,
MACHADO EITHER SIMPLY DOES NOT HAVE WHAT IT TAKES, OR IS
PREVENTED FROM SHOWING MUCH OFFENSIVE DRIVE BY THE STRICT
CONTROLS REPORTEDLY IMPOSED ON HIM FROM LISBON IN EFFORT
TO AVOID ANY REPETITIONS OF ALLEGED WIRIYAMU "MASSACRES".
PERHAPS MOST DESCRIPTIVE OF ALL IS LOCAL COCKTAIL REFERENCE
TO MACHADO AS "THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER".

VAN OSS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 FEB 1974
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LOUREN00133
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LOURENCO MARQUES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974023/aaaaacjq.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) LOURENCO MARQUES 902 OF DECEMBER
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <14 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW COMMANDER IN CHIEF BASTO MACHADO
TAGS: MILI, MZ, (MACHADO, BASTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005